



DBB 15U PROGRAM PROPOSAL- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What was the reasoning behind the proposal to add a 15U program?

The purpose was to address a recognized need. Participants age 15 now have an opportunity (better fit in some local communities) to participate in program, while also seeking a solution for the 14 & under that desire to play on full sized field (60'6 ft. mound/90 ft. bases).

2. What impact did the creation of 15U have on our traditional programs?

The added age grouping complements our existing program and in no way has it taken away from current organizational structure. No doubt many smaller communities are unable to have 15U, Boys and Majors. Sadly, some smaller communities no longer have enough players to field a Boys team. With age 15 allowed to participate by rule with 13-14 age, flexibility exists for leagues to form a 15U community player pool.

3. In an effort to coexist with our traditional Boys & Majors programs, will it allow for a player & a local league to participate in both programs during the 2024 season?

It was decided that a participant in appropriate 15 & under age group could participate in multiple programs including 15U and either/or traditional Boys (age.13-14) or Majors (age 15-19) as determined by age. Dual participation allowed.

4. How is it be possible to do both in the same season and what are the stipulations?

A league is given an additional opportunity to franchise as a 15U program and then also franchise within our existing structure. The league submits a 15U franchise application form with the understanding that the fee includes a \$30.00 per team national fee as well as a \$30.00 per franchised team state fee. The policy (same as Boys/Majors) requires a two-team minimum fee for each program. As an example, Community A desires to play Boys & Majors and also decides to play 15U using players age 13-14-15. The minimum total fee would be as follows: 3 DIVISIONS (\$60.00 National/\$60.00 State) = \$360.00 franchise fees. Note: The 15U roster can be comprised of any player within the expanded boundary that is 15 years of age or younger.

5. Multiple rosters are confusing, what is gained by allowing players on two teams?

As mentioned above it is unlikely most communities are able to franchise as Boys/Majors and 15U. A unique opportunity is available for both dual participation/dual franchises until program becomes independent of the traditional baseball program. The real thrust is to attract more communities that are no longer in our program due to influence of: JV baseball, other youth organizations with age grouping of 13-15, travel/tournament baseball or the sheer small numbers that currently register to participate by age in a local community. The advantages of offering this program have easily outweighed any minor negatives that we have encountered. DBB is fully committed to attracting new leagues and retaining existing leagues.

6. What level of tournament play is being offered in 2024 for the 15U division of DBB?

A World Series will be held for 15U division on the dates of July 17-19, 2024 in Sterlington, LA. It will be entry fee based. Invitations will be extended to franchised leagues that desire to play. Likely, not all state programs will participate in year eight of the World Series.

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Same method was used to create Junior Boys division and the organization is very pleased with its success and overall value. We recognize that the 15U program division will need constant evaluation. *We are pleased that we are able to offer World Series play for this division!*

7. How do we avoid a conflict with our traditional tournament program?

It is obvious that the 15U state tournaments need to be conducted in contrasting months. The 15U state tournaments will likely be held June 2024. The World Series date occurs after the completion of state tournament play and days prior to traditional World Series events.

8. What set of rules governs play in 15U and what process is used to determine the boundaries? The 2024-2025 Rulebook, using our Tournament Rules section for Majors play governs all play. Each participating state determines its boundaries for 15U legal players. Consideration is given to incorporating the current districts or even expanding some districts within a given state as the possible 15U boundaries. By enlarging a potential player selection area, to include an entire district it is likely that more players are available for team selection. It should also be noted that it is permissible for a school-based team to be formed using our rules as currently found. Local league play within a community does occur in 15U baseball. We also encourage communities to schedule home & away play with surrounding towns.

9. What are the sources of revenue and what does the organization commit? The 15U program required the organization to look at various revenue opportunities to offset cost. An entry fee is charged. The host pays the umpire game fees. The organization provides a pre-determined awards package and supplies all of the tournament baseballs. Tournament host provides DBB with a \$2,500 bid fee & three complimentary rooms for use by the DBB Tournament Director. The bid amount is used to offset cost of a 15U Tournament operation. It is anticipated that the Commissioner's Office will continue to oversee the 15U division World Series. It is understood that the cost to the DBB organization and the host must be kept at a minimum for the process to work. The host isn't responsible for housing of the teams, the two assigned umpires per game or any DBB Officials with the exception of the Tournament Staff. The host is allowed to charge up to \$10.00 per day as a gate fee.

10. What are the next steps now that the 15U was World Series was approved?

DBB has been in existence since 1957 and has remained true to the mission of providing a recreation-based program with emphasis on local participation. The one factor that has changed significantly is the local community approach to providing youth baseball. An abundance of outstanding facilities exists; however, the real challenge is finding approaches that will keep youth participating at the local level. An alarming number of 15 and under youth are no longer registered or participating in community sponsored youth baseball programs. The communities that have held it together and continue to offer a local recreation-based youth baseball program are to be commended and should never be overlooked. 15U provides another opportunity for youth to participate in DBB. The website at www.dbbusa.org along with promotional materials is available for the purpose of reaching as many people as possible. If you have any questions regarding the 15U program, contact a DBB official!